

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Office Action dated December 21, 2007. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended, Claims 6 and 12 having been previously cancelled. Claims 13 and 14 are new. Accordingly, Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 14 are currently pending.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,249,740 to Ito et al. ("Ito"). As set forth in greater detail below, reconsideration withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims

Independent Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more particularly claim the present invention. In particular, Claims 1 and 7, as amended, recite that the derivation-expected paths are precalculated without a determination of a likelihood that the mobile object will deviate from the navigation path at the arbitrary places. The amendments to Claims 1 and 7 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 6 line 33 to page 7 line 14 and at page 9 lines 14-24. New claims 13 and 14 have been added, which recite that the plurality of deviation-expected are calculated from optional points, selected among all nodes between a present position and the destination. Support for new Claims 13 and 14 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 9, lines 14-17.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

In rejecting the pending claims, the Examiner cites Ito, which is directed to a navigation system including a base vehicle navigation apparatus 100, provided in communication with a centrally located base apparatus 150. The system disclosed by Ito is adapted to reduce the amount of data transferred between the vehicle apparatus 100 and the base apparatus 150 by transferring only data needed to accomplish a turn at "course change points." Course change points being defined as those points along the predetermined path where the operator of the vehicle is required to turn or change course in order to arrive at the predetermined destination. Embodiments of the invention disclosed by Ito include making a determination based on the instructions to be given to the operator regarding a particular course change point that the operator may misinterpret the instructions and may deviate from the predetermined path at the particular course change point. If it is determined that the operator may deviate at a particular

course change point, then a return path is calculated that will lead the vehicle back to the predetermined path (See Ito, column 21 line 53 through column 22 line 49).

Here, it is noted that the system disclosed by Ito calculates a return path by selectively choosing course change points, which may be missed by an operator based on ambiguities in the instructions to be given to the operator. In sharp contrast, the present invention, as set forth in at least Independent Claims 1 and 7, as amended, precalculates deviation paths from *arbitrary* places along a navigation path. In particular, the derivation paths are precalculated without a determination of a likelihood that the mobile object will deviate from the navigation path at the arbitrary places. Additionally, it is noted that the claimed invention pre-calculates a *plurality* of derivation paths along the navigation path. While column 25 lines 2-5 of Ito recites displaying information related to a plurality of possible deviation points, no mention is made of calculating a plurality of return paths. Here, the derivation points are merely identified. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn and Claims 1 and 7 be allowed in their present form. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2 -5 and 13; and 8 - 11 and 14 which are dependent from Claim 1 or 7 directly or indirectly are also allowable.

In addition to depending from allowable independent claims, the dependent claims of the present application contain elements not disclosed by Ito. In particular, the dependent claims recite further aspects of a navigation system for use in a mobile object. Moreover, Claims 4 and 10 recite a selection of a deviation path, which is made by inspecting a number of deviation-expected paths to determine which path includes the present position of the mobile object. This aspect of the claimed invention cannot be found in Ito. In rejecting Claims 4 and 10, the Office Action cites column 25 line 52-55 of Ito, which is directed to an embodiment that includes reusing previously stored data associated with the area around a particular course change point. The data is reused if it is determined that the vehicle is currently in the vicinity of the particular course change point. Here, it is noted that, in Ito, the previously stored data simply includes raw data such as route/guidance data in the vicinity of the course change point (See Ito, column 25 lines 34-59). In sharp contrast to the claimed invention, as recited by Claims 4 and 10, the stored data of Ito does not include pre-calculated deviation expected paths. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claim 4, which depends from Claim 1, and dependent Claim 10, which depends from Claim 7 are respectfully requested.

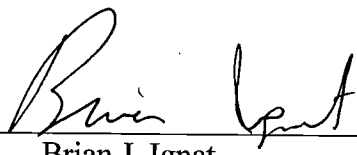
Conclusion

Applicants believe that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicants now respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn; and that the pending claims be allowed in their present form. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussion, he is kindly invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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